

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 15-21 as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/815,745, filed on March 23, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,634,551 that issued on October 21, 2003, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/203,402, filed May 11, 2000, ~~both of which are hereby incorporated~~ and likewise incorporates both the patent and the provisional application herein in their entirety by reference.

This application also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/426,599, filed November 15, 2002, which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

Please amend the paragraph on page 14, lines 11-19 as follows:

If no one is at home, under the scenario presented above (a.k.a. the "predetermined rules"), the delivery agent cannot enter a signature, so the delivery agent makes an indication of non-delivery (e.g., a "not in" entry). At that time the data acquisition device will prompt the driver to scan a bar-coded delivery notice such as shown as 20 70 in Figs. 2, 3A and 3B. The delivery agent will then pull a delivery notice out of his or her pocket or other suitable storage location, and then will scan, read or record the machine-readable delivery notice code portion 21 71 on the notice **20** with a device **31** capable of reading the machine-readable delivery notice code portion. The delivery notice **20**, but not the parcels, is to be left at the door.